

of numerous projects along the river basins in Virginia since he assumed command in July 2001.

Since first enrolling in the U.S. Army nearly 30 years ago, Colonel Hansen's devotion to duty has reflected the highest standards of the military profession. Following four years of Army enlisted service, he was commissioned in the Corps of Engineers through the Officer Candidate School program, Fort Benning, Georgia, in 1978. He has served on numerous assignments both in the United States and overseas. His military education is extensive and includes the Industrial College of the Armed Forces, the Army's Command and General Staff College, Engineer Basic and Advanced Courses, and the Combined Arms and Services Staff School. Colonel Hansen also holds a Bachelor of Science degree, and two master degrees.

Colonel Hansen's decorations include the Legion of Merit, the Meritorious Service Medal with one silver and two Oak Leaf Clusters, the Army Commendation Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster, the Army Achievement Medal, National Defense Service Medal with star, and Good Conduct Medal.

Colonel Hansen has shown tremendous commitment and devotion to his country. Today we recognize him for his unwavering patriotism and dedication to both his profession and the American people.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring Colonel David L. Hansen.

75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MADONNA OF THE TRAIL

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 2003

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, let me take this means to recognize the 75th anniversary of the Madonna of the Trail. One of these historic statues stands in my hometown of Lexington, Missouri, where the pioneer mother monument was presented by the Daughters of the American Revolution in 1928. The pioneer mother looks west, up the Missouri River, on area that was settled by American pioneers more than 160 years ago.

In the early 1900's, the Daughters of the American Revolution suggested marking the national Old Trails Road with a series of small markers placed at frequent intervals along the route. This road began with Braddock's Road in 1755. Lt. George Washington surveyed the road, which was cut through the Allegheny Mountains by British soldiers. The road was later continued as the Columbia Pike; the Great Valley Road; the Wilderness Road (cut by Daniel Boone across the Cumberland Gap); the Cumberland Road (also known as the National Road); Boone's Lick Road; and, finally, as the Santa Fe and Oregon Trails.

In 1924, Missouri State Regent, Mrs. John Trigg Moss of St. Louis, a member of the Cornelia Green Chapter, envisioned the idea of placing an identical statue in each of the twelve states crossed by the National Old Trails Road instead of small markers.

The twelve statues, designed by St. Louis sculptor August Leimbach, are made of algonite stone, a poured mass, of which the Missouri granite is used as the main aggre-

gate, thus giving the monument a warm, pink shade. They stand ten-feet tall on a six-foot base with a five-foot foundation (two-feet showing) below.

The Madonna of the Trail is a pioneer woman clasping her baby with her young son clinging to her skirt. The face of the mother, strong in character, beauty, and gentleness, is the face of a mother who realizes her responsibilities and trust in God. It has a feeling of solidarity—a monument that will stand through the ages.

Marking the 67th anniversary of the Battle of Lexington during the Civil War and facing ever Westward, the Pioneer Mother statue was dedicated on September 17, 1928. The presentation of the American Legion Memorial Flag and Flag pole was made by Ike Skelton III. The keynote speaker was Judge Harry S. Truman, President of the National Old Trails Association.

Mr. Speaker, the Daughters of the American Revolution can be proud of the Madonna of the Trail statue and the 75 years it has graced the City of Lexington. I know the Members of the House will join me in saluting the Daughters of the American Revolution for their contributions to preserving American history.

A VOICE OF CUBA

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 2003

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, on July 16, 2003 Mrs. Celia Cruz passed away, however, her legacy will be eternal. Celia Cruz was a musical genius and an extraordinary human being, dedicated to improving the lives of all, to the most admirable humanitarian causes, and with a profound love for Cuba and her people. Celia Cruz's exceptional life is a model and inspiration to all people. Her blessed voice combined with her gentle soul brought comfort and happiness to every corner of the planet.

Mrs. Cruz was not only the Ambassador of free Cuba's music, she represented the finest qualities of Cuban-Americans and Cuban exiles, and was a constant voice for freedom on the oppressed island nation.

Mr. Speaker, Mrs. Cruz died longing to return to a free and democratic Cuba, but as Reverend Martin Añorga so eloquently stated during her funeral mass, "Celia did not leave Cuba because she took Cuba with her when she left."

Hundreds of thousands of people of all nationalities paid their respects and tribute to the "Queen of Latin Music" in Miami and New York. Even at the moment of her death Mrs. Cruz made certain that her physical passing would be a celebration of the happiness she embodied.

The passing of Celia Cruz is cause for deep pain. I send my deepest condolences to her husband, another great Cuban, Pedro Knight.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to submit for the record an editorial by The Washington Post which appropriately honors the life and legacy of Celia Cruz.

A VOICE OF CUBA

Sugar is a symbol of Cuba, not only a core industry but a key ingredient of its history and heritage and a timeless reminder of both

sweeter and grittier times for the island's people. And in Spanish, "Azucar!" was also the signature trill of Celia Cruz, whose voice has embodied the sound of Cuba for decades.

Ms. Cruz, who died Wednesday of brain cancer, was the voice of a generation, and the one after, and the one after that. She started out singing lullabies to her nieces and until the end continued to shake what her mama gave her. Young couples in the 1950s swayed to her rhythms as part of the band La Sonora Matancera; those same couples' grandchildren got down to her single "La Negra Tiene Tumbao," whose album won a Latin Grammy in 2002.

When Ms. Cruz defected from Cuba in 1960, her songs were banned in her home country, though in recent years Cuban aficionados could listen to her hits by tuning into Miami radio stations. At first, the sensation who left behind stardom in Cuba and sought liberty in the United States had no easy time; her efforts for the next decade stumbled. But like so many immigrants seeking the American dream, she eventually made it: That clear, operatic voice could not be denied.

Hers was a talent that reached far beyond her own culture. In concert, she charmed audiences throughout Latin America, Europe, Africa and Asia, and Ms. Cruz's more than 70 records became a clarion call for music lovers worldwide. She moved, effortlessly between the Afro-Cuban rhythms of her youth to the salsa she defined and redefined; later in her career she embraced hip-hop style and transformed it into eye-popping music videos. For her, it was all part of the same music and a shared experience.

Unlike so many celebrities of the modern era, Ms. Cruz knew firsthand of the atrocities of communism in Cuba, and she spoke frankly of her time and challenges there. Ms. Cruz's voice instantly fills a room with the feel of swaying palm fronds and cigar smoke, bringing back memories of a Cuba before Fidel Castro's dictatorship. But her art transcended any political agenda. Ms. Cruz always remained a lady, coy about her age and decked out in extravagant outfits even in her last public appearances—accompanied nearly always by her husband of 40 years, Pedro Knight.

For thousands of Cuban exiles, listening to her music will remain a time machine, a connection to a homeland that in many ways no longer exists. She, like so many others of her generation, was never able to return to the free Cuba for which she longed. But her message was also one of hope, inspiring fans of all nationalities with her indomitable voice, ringing at once with grace and perseverance every time she cried out, "Azucar!"

HARRISBURG SESQUICENTENNIAL RECOGNITION

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 2003

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to the City of Harrisburg, Illinois, as she celebrates her sesquicentennial. Established in 1853, the people of Harrisburg have prospered while giving so much to this great nation.

The City of Harrisburg was founded as an administrative center for the newly-created Saline County. Since that time, many people have been blessed to call Harrisburg home. Harrisburg boasts of a quality educational system, the unrivaled natural beauty of the Shawnee National Forest and one of Illinois' top

track and field programs. Each fall, the City of Harrisburg celebrates its history with a Past to Present Festival. As well, Harrisburg has served as a vital part of the coal industry in southern Illinois for many years.

I am proud to represent the people of the great City of Harrisburg and to share in this special occasion with them. I thank them for all they give to this great nation and I wish them many successes in the years to come. Congratulations!

IN RECOGNITION OF FORMER MISSOURI GOVERNOR WARREN E. HEARNES AND FORMER MISSOURI STATE REPRESENTATIVE BETTY COOPER HEARNES

HON. KAREN MCCARTHY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 2003

Ms. MCCARTHY of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor two great Missourians, Governor Warren E. Hearnes and his wife, State Representative Betty Cooper Hearnes on their birthdays.

I salute the accomplishments of Governor Hearnes and Representative Hearnes. I worked alongside Betty in the General Assembly. In true fashion, she does not want to be recognized for her accomplishments, but I would be remiss not to mention her great contributions to our State as an elected official and First Lady. The Hearnes have shared significant roles in the State of Missouri, shaped and crafted sound public policy, and served as beacons of light for our citizens and our party.

The Hearnes celebrate the same birthday and today marks Warren's 80th birthday and Betty's 76th birthday. I salute the remarkable longevity of their lives together and their lifelong commitment to public service.

Warren Hearnes is renowned for his tenacity and principles as a public official. Governor Hearnes is a graduate from West Point Military Academy, as well as from the University of Missouri Columbia Law School. After serving in the U.S. Army during World War II, he was elected to the Missouri House of Representatives the following year, and later went on to serve as Secretary of State. He will long be remembered for his unwavering stance to promote state autonomy. Governor Hearnes' fight with the Johnson administration often made him disliked by the presidency but admired by his colleagues in the National Governors Conference throughout the sixties and seventies.

During his time in office, the state legislature overwhelmingly approved and the people ratified a constitutional amendment to allow future Governors of Missouri to serve two consecutive four year terms. Thus, Governor Hearnes ran for and won a second term with the largest percentage of popular votes in Missouri history. In his second term he facilitated reforms to improve universities and colleges, ushered in massive road improvements, and supported the troops in Vietnam but questioned the administration's plan to pursue such a war. Following his term in office, he continued his public advocacy by spending sixteen

years working as the Executive Director of the Southeast Missouri Legal Services, an agency to assist people with low incomes in dire need of legal counseling.

Like her husband, Betty Hearnes is an amazing mentor and friend to everyone she meets. She was an excellent model and confidante during the seventies and eighties when the Missouri legislature had very few women in office. In 1979, Betty won the same Missouri House seat her husband held years prior. In addition, she served as Chairwoman of the Democratic State Committee, President of the Mississippi County Industrial Development Authority, as a major facilitator of the Warren E. Hearnes Museum, and a volunteer currently involved in countless civic and charity projects. Today Warren and Betty continue to spend time in Charleston, Missouri serving those most in need. Their endless generosity is an inspiration to us all.

I congratulate Warren and Betty Hearnes on this meaningful occasion and shared birthday. I am grateful for their friendship and am honored to recognize them for their vast personal accomplishments and lifetime of public service.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 2003

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, on the legislative day of Wednesday, July 23, 2003, the House had a procedural vote on the FY 2004 Foreign Operations Appropriations bill. On House rollcall vote No. 424, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

NYSSA 100TH CENTENNIAL

HON. GREG WALDEN

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 2003

Mr. WALDEN of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, I rise this evening to pay tribute to the community of Nyssa in eastern Oregon's Malheur County and to commemorate the passage of an important milestone in the history of the town. This weekend the people of Nyssa will commemorate the centennial anniversary of the incorporation of their community. This is an event that symbolizes the endurance of the eastern Oregon way of life and the continuity that exists between the earliest settlers of our state and the people who proudly identify themselves as Oregonians today.

There is some debate about the origin of the name Nyssa. Some say it is an acronym for the New York Sheep Shearing Association, which sounds plausible enough given the tradition of shepherding throughout the town's history. Others insist that the town was named by the daughter of a railroad engineer who was reading a book on ancient history and named the town after St. Gregory of Nyssa. Whatever the source of the name, this much

is clear: Nyssa stands for the small town values that still echo in the hearts of the people who call it home.

Known as the Gateway City to Oregon, Nyssa is located on the banks of the Snake River on the Idaho-Oregon border. Nearby the historic Oregon Trail, which brought thousands of settlers across the continent to the West, remains visible to this day. Nyssa's history as a town began in 1883 with the arrival of the Oregon Short Line Railroad, though the area was familiar terrain to the fur traders who operated along the Snake River in the early 1800s. The town's first Post Office was established in 1889 and the incorporation of Nyssa occurred in 1903, when the town had gained enough residents to merit elected city officials. In the generations that have followed the founding of Nyssa, the community has been home to hardworking farmers and ranchers who have made their homes in the high desert of Oregon.

The community was immeasurably enriched by the revival of federal irrigation projects in the area, such as the Owyhee Dam which was completed in 1932 to provide water for 120,000 acres of arid land surrounding Nyssa. The miracle of irrigated agriculture made the high desert of Oregon bloom and made possible the way of life that continues today. In the 1930s, many citizens of the Great Plains relocated to the area, drawn by the warmth of the people and the quality of life offered by the community. By the late 1930s, the number of acres being irrigated had attracted the sugar beet industry, and Nyssa saw the opening of the Amalgamated Sugar Company, a sugar processing plant that came into operation in Nyssa in 1938. Agriculture remains the base of the local economy, and most businesses cater to farm production and marketing of products, which include sugar, onions, potatoes, corn, mint, and wheat.

Like many communities in Oregon, the growth in agriculture during the first half of the century brought immigrant families to Nyssa to work the land. Many Hispanic families traveled to the area, where they raised their children and established roots that endure to this day. Nyssa also became home to many Dutch immigrants and later a number of Japanese-Americans who were interned during World War II. Many of these internees remained in the area after the war ended, where they continue to add to the richness of the town's history.

Despite the ups and downs of the Oregon farm economy and the need for many townspeople to find work outside of town, the people of Nyssa have remained loyal to their community. The town has maintained an excellent school system and the population remains stable at 3,100.

Mr. Speaker, since Nyssa was founded it has been home to hearty, self-reliant people who are proud of their history, loyal to their families and community, and representative of the rural way of life that still means as much to the people who live here as it did a hundred years ago. It is both a privilege and an honor to represent the good people of Nyssa in the U.S. House of Representatives. I congratulate them on the occasion of the Centennial of their community, and I look forward to traveling to Nyssa this weekend to share in the celebration with my good friends.